

#### 4. Mrs. M. L. Rayne Highlights Proper Business Ventures for Victorian Women, 1893

As a forceful illustration of the extent to which women are now invading the fields of labor which have hitherto been occupied in the main by men, we append the following list which offers an interesting study. There are a great many branches not included in this list into which women are making their way, and to which reference is made elsewhere in the book.

Bankers and brokers, clergy, teachers, lawyers, physicians and surgeons, dentists, nurses, poets, dramatists, artists, journalists, editors, reporters, printers and type-setters, proof-readers, stenographers and type-writers, telegraphers, musicians, elocutionists, piano tuners, teachers of dancing, photographers, retouchers of photographs, government clerks and officials, dressmakers, professional cooks, hotel and boarding-house keepers, restaurateurs, inventors, electricians, lecturers, pilots, bookkeepers, commercial travelers, canvassers, engravers, wood turners and carvers, carriage trimmers, bell foundry operators, brass founders, gun and locksmiths, tanners, architects, auctioneers, clockmakers, agricultural laborers, gardeners, beekeepers, poultry raisers, stock herders and stock raisers, barbers and hair dressers, cigarmakers, brewers, fishers, distillers, curriers and tanners, weavers.

It is now almost impossible to find any business in which a woman is not engaged, if not as principal, as assistant; in which position she pays the penalty of a lack of business knowledge and experience, by receiving a lower rate of remuneration

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Martha Louise Rayne, *What Can a Woman Do: or, Her Position in the Business and Literary World* (Peterborough, N.Y.: Eagle Publishing Co., 1893), pp. 22-24.

than a man would for doing exactly the same work; but she must patiently bide her time and learn what it is that she can do best, and not be spasmodic in her work or in her business relations.

#### **False Pride.**

When a young girl selects some money-making business she will naturally aspire to one of the professions, such as teaching, because of the desirable associations which surround it. School influences are all good, and a teacher is fitted to appear in the best society, as the result of association with the cultured and refined educators of youth. But all can not be teachers, nor are they adapted to the work if they could secure situations. What then? The shop, cashiers, bookkeepers or clerks? The training for any of these positions must be such that they can compete with the male clerk who began by sweeping out the store, and not only learned to cast up accounts with accuracy and precision, but to understand and take an interest in the fundamental laws upon which business is based. The girl who was playing with dolls when her fellow-clerk began his apprenticeship expects to pick it up in a few months, and earn as much as he! She will learn in a few lessons that she is mistaken, and if she is wise will pocket her pride and go down to the bottom of things as he did, learning the science as well as the routine of what she is doing. She need not abate a particle of her dignity of character, or grow hard and commonplace through the service of life, any more than she need ape the manners or don the garb of her male co-worker. It is not necessary that she lose that essential charm of womanhood, which is her natural heritage, because she turns the pages of a ledger. The whole tendency of her being is to grow in womanly strength, not to develop into some kind of a masculine nondescript.